Alberta Finance

Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11, 2002 TO FEBRUARY 15, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
New Housing Price Index	December			New house prices in Canada were up 0.2% in December, with the largest month over month increase posted by Ottawa-Hull (0.9%). Calgary and Edmonton showed month over month increases of 0.1% and 0.3% respectively. On an annual basis, new house prices are up 2.8% for Canada, and are up 3.5% and 3.0% for Calgary and Edmonton respectively. Windsor (-0.1%) posted the only annual decrease in new house prices.
Canada	107.3	0.2%	2.8%	
Edmonton	115.6	0.3%	3.0%	
Calgary	137.7	0.1%	3.5%	
(1992=100)				
New Motor Vehicle Sales	December			New motor vehicle sales in Canada rose 0.9% in December. On an annual basis, December sales were up 16.9%, as the auto sector continued to be spurred by generous incentives from manufacturers. For the year overall, 1,597,949 new vehicles were sold in Canada, exceeding the previous record year, 2000, by 0.7%. Alberta (7.0%) led the provinces in sales gains in 2001, reporting the largest sales advances for both cars (10.8%) and trucks (4.8%).
Canada	145,665	0.9%	16.9%	
Alberta	16,263	-4.5%	12.4%	
Consumer Price Index	December			The Canadian CPI rose 0.3% in January from December 2001. January's advance was primarily due to higher prices for fresh vegetables, auto insurance premiums and gasoline. The Alberta CPI increased 0.5% in January and is up 2.7% from January 2001.
(1992=100)				
Alberta	119.1	0.5%	2.7%	
Canada	116.2	0.3%	1.3%	
Urban Housing Starts	January			Urban housing starts rose in January by 19.7% to 184,300 units, while total housing starts in Canada rose by 17.3% to 204,300 units. The four maritime provinces all posted decreases in housing starts, with the largest percentage decreases in New Brunswick (-63.3%) and Prince Edward Island (-33.3%). All other provinces posted increases, with the largest by Ontario (34.0%) and British Columbia (29.1%). Alberta's housing starts increased 5.1% in January to 28,800, up 19.0% from January 2000.
(thousands)				
Alberta	28,800	5.1%	19.0%	
Canada	184,300	19.7%	21.6%	